

REMARKS

Claims 40-72 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, Claims 1-39 have been canceled, and Claims 40-72 have been added. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. No new matter has been added.

I. REMARKS

Applicants have amended the above-identified invention to further clarify the scope of the invention. In addition, Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement under separate cover and providing references directed to biometric keys.

Applicants respectfully submit that prior art biometric keys generally concern smart card references that describe a "key" in the form of a card having a biometric sensor which is insertable into a computer through mating I/O ports. Claim 40, however, provides a biometric key in the form of a mechanical key engageable by a receptor body in the form of a mechanical lock body. Thus the invention provides substantial advantages over the prior art because it includes both a mechanical key and a biometric key incorporated into a single key. The present invention extends the principle of biometric validation of authorized users to facilities having mechanical locks, such as doors of secure installations such as prisons or drawers of a cabinet for example.

Independent claim 54 refers to a receptor body including a mechanical lock body having a movable component or cylinder which moves relative to a barrel wherein contact(s) of the movable component engage with corresponding contact(s) of the barrel to provide power to processing means associated with the lock body to cause automatic generation of a signal representing a biocode of data upon insertion of the

biometric key into the lock body. This provides access to a facility to an authorized user of the biometric key. Similar comments apply to independent process claim 69.

Independent claims 66 and 69 are not limited to the receptor body being a mechanical lock body and distinguish over the prior art by specifying that the signal discussed above causes movement of a movable component of the facility, such as a door or drawer, to which the receptor body is attached when access to the facility is granted to an authorized user. In contrast, independent process claim 72 refers to the signal causing movement of a latch member that is part of the receptor body to unlock the facility to an authorized user.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that Claims 40-72 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

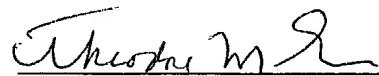
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Although no additional fee is believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required by submission of these papers to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

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